



Henry McMaster
Governor

SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Harry M. Lightsey III
Secretary

Recycling Market Development Advisory Council (RMDAC) Meeting
1201 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Thursday, May 14, 2026
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

RMDAC

Tina Green, Mumford Industries
Brad Dutton, Dutton Polymers
Carol James-Gilchrist, Sonoco Recycling
Jay Spears, Continental
Becky Berube, United Catalyst Corporation
Adam Padgett, Green Energy Biofuels
Andrew Spicer, University of South Carolina
Tyrone Ellis, Trane Technologies
Samantha Yager, City of Columbia

GUESTS

Glenn Odom, Retired; Emeritus Member

ABSENT

Ed Marr, Horry County
Angel Lara, Mid-Carolina Steel
Chris Fisher, Fisher Recycling
Morgan Crapps, Redwood Materials
Gabriel Matos, Republic Services

STAFF

Anna DeLage, SC Department of Commerce
Adriana Diotalevi, SC Department of Commerce
Terrell Prested, SC Department of Commerce
Shelby McIntyre, SC Department of Commerce

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Tina Green (Chair) motions to call the meeting to order at 10:07 AM.

MINUTES

The minutes from the March 2026 meeting were reviewed and approved.



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INTRODUCTIONS

Tyrone Ellis from Trane Technologies and Samantha Yager from City of Columbia introduced themselves. Tyrone will represent the General Public and Samantha will represent the Municipality seat.

TRAVEL POLICY & REIMBURSEMENT

Terrell Prested, the Business Services Admin Assistant, went over eligible reimbursements, mileage reimbursements rates, meal per diem rates, and lodging rules. Terrell also reviewed the process for when lodging is above per diem rates.

STATE & INDUSTRY UPDATES

- Regional Roundtable Highlights and Themes
 - Anna DeLage presented survey results from the first regional roundtable.
 - Most people felt that the session was most valuable, roundtable discussions addressed key challenges somewhat well, that roundtable discussions allowed for enough time for meaningful conversations, and there was an interest to dive deeper into the issues. The agenda for the Midlands is being modified to reflect this change
 - The key themes from the first roundtable were:
 - Economic incentives are misaligned in the regions
 - Infrastructures gaps and logistics are problems
 - Education gaps persist at every level
 - Coordination is missing piece
 - Policy alignment is necessary
 - The survey asked who else needs to be in the room, such as lawmakers, haulers, citizens, etc. The meeting had a strong presence of recyclers and state and local government.
 - It was noted a few missing pieces include new innovations. The audience is business recycling from an economic development lens, why are these businesses locating in SC.
 - Becky attended Select USA 5000 people looking at the US for site selection. SC represented very well. There is a great opportunity to frame the recycling conversation in terms of economic development.

REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE UPDATES

- Tina Green discussed the June 4th Midlands Roundtable Agenda



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- Including a Regional Recycling Analysis Matrix exercise
- Regional Recycling Analysis Matrix: similar to a cost-benefit analysis
 - Low to high importance on x-axis, low to high ability to influence on y-axis
- Practice Exercise
 - Questions/clarifications: Is the exercise from a policy or business perspective? From personal or business viewpoint? Is it for profit or to save the environment?
 - "Important" is an ambiguous term – to who is it important to, this depends on where you are in the value chain.
 - The group worries that people will spend too long clarifying definitions instead of actually discussing or doing the exercise
 - Make vernacular more colloquial
- The consensus was to revert to our original listening style format from the Pee Dee roundtable discussions.
- Tina, Ed, Andy, Tyrone, Sam, Adam, Glenn, and Carol will be attending the next roundtable event.

RMDAC NEW BUSINESS

Anna DeLage discussed business updates.

- H. 5238 – Recycling and Waste Diversion resolution has moved through both House and Senate. Ed Marr helped write this resolution.
- Tyrone discussed his involvement in remanufacturing and the ReMADE Institute who is hosting their annual meeting in Charlotte, NC.
- Upcoming meetings
 - June 4th: Regional Roundtable (Midlands Tech Airport Campus)
 - July 9th: virtual meeting
 - September 10th: Regional Roundtable (Greer, SC)
 - September 10th-11th: RMDAC Retreat (Greer, SC)

MARKET UPDATES

- Each board member gave brief updates on the current state of their respective markets.
 - EPR is becoming increasingly popular in the US (already popular in Canada)
 - Govt. involvement/regulations can complicate the intent of EPR
 - Need to close loopholes for bad actors.



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- Carpet: post-industrial carpet is so much less expensive than post-consumer carpet (challenge for post-consumer)
 - PET carpet is 50% of market and has no market value unless you are a state like CA that has EPR for carpet recycling and reprocessing. NY has new carpet EPR
- Recycling industry (Tina): recyclers are struggling, things are changing
 - People are looking towards disposal instead of recycling or reprocessing because of cost.
- Polyester: following oil, which is following gas = price is increasing
 - Many fiber recyclers are running full and can't get enough PET, which is good news for a market that has been down for a while.
 - More customers are substituting virgin for wide-spec virgin or recycled fiber materials
 - Everyone's trying to keep their inventory where they can manage it (waiting to order materials)
 - There still seems to be a mismatch with trickledown economics with the oil margins, but this is overall positive news for rPET.
- Paper: OCC is up to \$80/ton
 - Generation is down in paper businesses. Demand is down.
 - All brown paper grades went up, mixed paper/high-grade materials stayed flat
 - Not exporting as much, they are keeping it for their paper mills.
- Trane Technologies: Data centers is the big story in their industry
 - Trane stock price has increased almost \$100/share
 - Order backfills are highest in company's history (\$10.2 billion), with data centers being a primary driver.
- Trane helps the world's most advanced hyperscale and colocation data centers perform smarter, cleaner and more reliably. That equipment demands such high energy needs that the cooling lifespan decreases, carbon footprint is a big conversation in this space. Trane is doing a lot of acquisitions and is even a part of the space innovation that is happening with data centers.
- Renewable fuel: feedstock prices up by 30% across the board since January
- Recycled Aluminum: Average U.S. scrap aluminum price: Around \$0.66/lb. 30-day change: Down 4%, reflecting a market correction after the April peak.



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- Month-over-Month Summary: March to April 2025: Price increased by approximately +3.0%, likely due to seasonal demand or supply tightening. April to May 2025: Price dropped by about -4.4%, reflecting a market correction.

Adjourn: 11:53 AM